DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: About 200 reams for the needs of the University.

Storing of rice.

182. ***MR. P. S. MUHAMED:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are in possession of any quantity of rice purchased by them?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know the total quantity of rice remaining with Government?

PRESIDENT: It is not in public interest to disclose that information. If it is given, at once the wholesale dealers will greatly value it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI: Government rice நாகர்கோவிலில் ஸ்டாக் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா? ஆனல் எவ்வளவு? நாகர்கோவிலிலுள்ள நாஞ் சநாட்டு அரிசியை கச்சவடக்காரர்கள் கோட்டை ஒன்றுக்கு 9 ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் விற்கக் கூடாது என்று ஏதாவது ஆர்டரை கவர்மெண்டு பிறப்பித்திருக்கிறார்களா?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: This question does not arise from this answer. There is no specific order like that so far. But the question is engaging the attention of Government.

MR. M. SIVATAHNU PILLAI: கேற்றயத்தினம் திருவனந்தபுரம் District Magistrate அவர்கள் நாகர்கோவிலுக்குச் சென்று, அங்குள்ள கச்சவடக் காரர்கள் ஒருவரும் தங்களிடமிருக்கிற அரிசியை 9 ரூபாய்க்குமேல் விற்க க்கூடாது என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்களா? 14, 15, 16, 17 ரூபாய்க்கு வாங்கி குறைந்த விலைக்கு விற்க கச்சவடக்காரர்கள் சம்மதிக்கவில்லை என் பது மெம்பருக்குத் தெரியுமா?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: May I explain, Sir. It was reported that Kottar paddy which was obtained from local producers at very low rates, was being sold at exorbitant rates, even at Rs. 12 or 13 per Kottah. Consequently, the price of Kottar rice at Trivandrum had gone up to Rs. 17 and 17½. That was considered to be extortionate. The District Magistrate of Trivandrum, by virtue of the powers conferred on him under the Essential Commodities Order, went to Kottar and advised the merchants that if they were to sell local paddy at such high rates Government might have to take action under the said Order. An agreement was arrived at with the merchants and they agreed to sell rice at the rate of Rs. 9 per Kottah. That was only a matter of mutal agreement. That is the position as reported by the District Magistrate.

PRESIDENT: If there is any complaint from a wholesale dealer that he has been unfairly dealt with, then that will be investigated by the Government.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: இதிலிருந்து கவர்மெண்டின் விலை 9 ரூபா ய் என்று நாங்கள் மனசிலாக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஏதோ சில கச்சவடக் காரர்கள் தான் இந்தக் கான்பரன்ஸில் கலந்துகொண்டார்கள் என்பது மெம்பருக்குத் தெரியுமா?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: No such formal order has been passed in the matter. That was the mutual arrangement between the District Magistrate and the merchants concerned.

PRESIDENT: From time to time, in centres like Kottar, Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey, there is a tendency on the part of wholesale dealers either to raise the prices to the retail dealer and from the retailer to the consumer, partly with the knowledge of Government and more often without the knowledge of Government. Taking advantage of the fact that certain number of officials apparently consume only Nanjanad rice, the merchants mix Nanjanad rice with other rice and sell them as Nanjanad rice, so much so it was suddenly noted that in Trivandrum rice was being sold – mark it was not entirely Nanjanad rice--at Rs. 17½ to 18 or so. We came to the conclusion that this is a very difficult state of affairs So the District Magistrate was asked to make enquiries on this matter. It was found that rice which had been purchased by the wholesale dealers from the local producers for small amounts was sold at high prices. We have definitely made it a point that the wholesale dealers must give us their accounts. If the price is really Rs. 15 or 16 from the producer, then he is entitled to charge a certain amount of profit. If he purchases at Rs. 10 and taking advantage of the prevailing rates, sells it at a higher rate than what is legitimately due, such a profiteering is not allowed by Government. We have throughout proceeded on the footing that to the extent to which he purchased from the producer, he can sell it at some higher rate without taking advantage of the rise in price. He is allowed to take a reasonable profit. That is the only way to prevent profiteering. Wherever it is found that the accounts rendered by merchants are not accurate, other enquiries are made No doubt that is somewhat arbitrary procedure and may not be defended by what may be called Mid Victorian economic standard rates. The price of this commodity cannot stand by those acknowledged standards.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: அந்த மாதிரி 7, 8, ரூபாய்க்கு வாங்கி கூடுதல் விலைக்கு 16, 17 ரூபாயாக விற்கும் கச்சவடக்காரர்களை நிர்ப்பந்தம் செய்தால் நல்லது. அதுபோக, 13, 14, 16, 17 ரூபாய்க்கு வாங்கினவர்களை 9 ரூபாய்க்கு விற்கவேண்டுமென்று நிர்ப்பந்திப்பது நியாயமில்லை.

PRESIDENT: Has any complaint been received in this matter?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: No, Sir.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: In the light of the statement from the Chair, I have to raise one point. For instance, in Trivandrum itself there are certain merchants who have collected large stocks and some others with small stocks. The Government order says that account books of the merchants may be referred to verify the rate at which they sell rice. In that case, will it not tempt either set of merchants who have incurred loss to sell at still higher rates?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: We can only proceed on the basis of average rates.

PRESIDENT: These are inevitable things.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There is a definite understanding in regard to this matter. The current price for about 70 to 80 per cent of the total stock is taken into account in striking the average.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : സാമാന്യജനങ്ങൾക്കു തടസ്സംകൂടാതെ ന്യായമായ വിലയ്ക്ക് അരി കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഡിപ്പോകൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : ഇതുവരെ അങ്ങനെ ഒരു സ്കീം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. അതിന്റെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നപക്ഷം അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR : യുദ്ധത്തിന്റെ ആരംഭഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് അരി വരുത്തി സ്റ്റാക്കു ചെയ്തിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അരിയുടെ വിലയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നിയന്ത്രിക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു സാധിച്ചില്ലേ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : സാധിച്ചു.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR : ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിലും അതേമാതിരി വില നിയന്ത്രണം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ശ്രമിക്കാതിരുന്നതു് എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണ്?

PRESIDENT: I hope honourable members will realise the implication of what has fallen from one honourable member who has brought this motion. It is a matter of tremendous difficulty for Government to purchase rice and sell it. If Government were to take upon themselves the purchase of the rice for the whole State or for a porportionate area of the State, the result will be the exercise of a great deal of power. Possibilities for irregulariaties would at once ensue. After all we have to rely on human agencies. There is the wholesale dealer as well as the retail dealer. With a certain amount of give and take and arbitrary action in some cases on the part of Magistrates, we get on somehow. For instance, from Peishkar downwards to Proverthicar, if everybody is both a Magistrate and a wholesale dealer or retail dealer, this strangle-hold of officialdom on the people and the possibilities for clash between the people and the officialdom may become so extensive that I do not think honourable members would relish such a change.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): May I know whether Government have any idea of controlling paddy in Nanjanad in view of the very large amount spent for constructing the Kodayar Reservoir out of common funds?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: By control is meant, control to the extent that profiteering will not be allowed.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly